

10/540,005

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend paragraphs 0013-0032, 0034-0049, 0066, 0073, 0085, 0090, 0096, 0099, 0115, 0116, 0125, 0126, 0130, 0131, and 0139 of the specification as follows:

Page 3, lines 17-24

[0013] The flexible tube according to a first aspect of the present invention as set forth in Claim 1 is a flexible tube to be disposed on an exhaust path for exhaust gas from an engine, the tube including an outer bellows that is an outer tube having a flexible part with bellows, and an inner bellows that is an inner tube having a flexible part with bellows, the inner tube being fixed to one open end part of the outer bellows, wherein a gap as a buffering space is provided between bottoms of the pleats of the outer bellows and tops of the pleats of the inner bellows.

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Page 4, line 24 to page 4, line 6

[0014] According to the first aspect of the invention of Claim 1, by providing a gap as a buffering space between bottoms of the pleats of the outer bellows and tops of the pleats of the inner bellows, the amounts of exhaust noise and heat released from the inner bellows are suppressed by the buffering space, thus durability of the outer bellows is improved, and the amounts of exhaust sound and heat released from the outer bellows can be reduced. In addition, in a case of a flexible tube disposed upstream of the catalytic converter, the lowering of the temperature of the exhaust gas to be fed into the catalytic converter is suppressed, leading to quick temperature rise of the exhaust gas to be fed into the catalytic converter, thus resulting in improved capability to purify exhaust gas.

Page 4, lines 7-13